

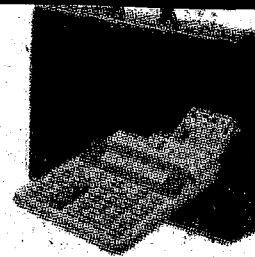
**Utica Films Tounder
plans documentary
n Bosnian refugees**

► Living, 5B



**Green Bay
Packers beat
Patriots, 28-10**

► Sports, 1C



**It takes time to
see the benefits
of moonlighting**

► Business & Careers, 1D

OBSERVER-DISPATCH

TUESDAY, OCT. 28, 1997

UTICA, N.Y.

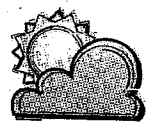
METRO EDITION

50 CENTS

WEATHER

7° 35°

er cool day
a mixture of
nd clouds.



Forecast, 2A

NEWS DIGEST

CAL

**parents, students
support AIDS program**

RONA — The Sept. 29 presentation given at the on-Verona-Sherrill High l came up again at Mon-school board meeting. time supporters came out. 3B

**fire chief opposes
ina reassignment**

CA — The city's fire chief t like the temporary reas-ent of the city's chief fire al, Douglas Sardina, over ns about who will deter-he cause of fires. But

Bossert cleanup finally begins in Utica — very cautiously

By R. PATRICK CORBETT
Observer-Dispatch

UTICA — Respirators muffle the voices of workers hauling contaminated waste out of the old Bossert Manufacturing plant in West Utica, but the message is clear: Be careful.

Crews clad in personal protective gear are carting tons of trash out of the building through doorways that have been sealed for a

decade by concrete blocks.

"Most of it is PCB-contaminated debris we stockpiled 10 years ago," Jack Harmon, project manager for the federal Environmental Protection Agency, said.

The old metal-stamping plant, seized by the city for unpaid taxes in the mid-1980s, sits next to the North-South Arterial in West Utica.

An estimated 3,500 cubic yards of old protective gear,

hoses and other material was piled up inside the decaying buildings when the EPA made its first emergency cleanup a decade ago.

Now, the debris will be trucked in sealed containers to a toxic waste landfill near Niagara Falls, Harmon said.

David Salle, owner of Sunset Carbonic Gas Co. across Oswego Street from the Bossert complex, has been waiting for something

to happen for a dozen years, and he's glad work has started.

"Just cutting the grass and picking things up like they've done makes the place look better," he said.

He said he only is disappointed that the EPA will not demolish the buildings on the site. "People thought everything was going to be leveled," Salle said.

Please see **BOSSERT**, 2A



By HEATHER MARTIN, Observer-Dispatch

Peter Pickard of Earth Tec remediation services, which is the prime contractor for the Environmental Protection Agency, removes contaminated debris from the Bossert Manufacturing Plant Thursday afternoon. Pickard is wearing an air-purifying respirator and personal protective gear to prevent him from touching the debris.

SPECIAL REPORT

Wall Street hurts Asian market

Shares plunge 15% during

438656



WEATHER

THE REGION AND STATE

Today - Clouds and sun



High **47°** Low **35°**

Another cool day across Central New York. We should see a mixture of sun and clouds today.

Wednesday - Partly sunny



High **53°** Low **38°**

Look for partly sunny skies on Wednesday, the breeze should lessen a lot and temperatures will climb into the 50's.

Thursday

High **59°** Low **39°**

Mostly sunny and a little warmer.

Friday

High **57°** Low **41°**

Partly sunny and seasonable. A bit cool at night.

Saturday

High **53°** Low **40°**

Increasing and thickening clouds with showers developing.



The local forecast by Matt DiNardo, WKTV-2. Watch his complete forecast tonight at 5, 6 and 11.



Precipitation yesterday	0.17"	City	Monday HI	Lo	Precip.
'97 precipitation to date	25.76"	Albany	52	39	0.42
'96 precipitation to date	32.21"	Binghamton	55	38	0.13
Today's record high	78° in 1984	Buffalo	52	36	0.19
Today's record low	24° in 1974	Elmira	57	34	0.13
Sunrise	6:32 a.m.	Glens Falls	48	39	0.93
Sunset	5:58 p.m.	Jameson	48	36	0.12
Daily precipitation measurements from the Federal Contract Weather Observation Station at Oneida County Airport for the 24-hour period ending at 4 p.m.		Massena	52	32	1.16
		New York City	67	38	0.19
		Niagara Falls	50	36	0.24
		Poughkeepsie	55	43	0
		Rochester	55	38	0.57
		Syracuse	58	40	0.11
		UTICA	58	38	0.17
		Watertown	53	37	1.08
		White Plains	61	50	0

Degree days

Heating degree days yesterday **16.5**
 97-'98 season to date **352.5**
 96-'97 season to date **375.5**
 Heating degree days are the number of degrees by which the day's average temperature is below 65°.

Moon phases

New moon	First quarter	Full moon	Last quarter
Oct. 31	Nov. 7	Nov. 14	Nov. 21

THE NORTHEAST

AccuWeather® forecast for daytime conditions and high temperatures



Bossert cleanup should not pose any health threats

Continued from BOSSERT, 1A

Harmon said the EPA will tear down "only what is necessary to remove material, salvage equipment or protect the workers at their jobs."

The most common waste, PCBs, are chemical compounds suspected of causing cancer. Harmon said they are not dangerous unless they contaminate water sources or get mixed with dust that can be breathed into the lungs. The workers' respirators defeat what little dust escapes the ubiquitous coating of oil on most of the plant's surfaces, he said.

Tons of metal machinery and pipe will be decontaminated on the site and sold to a recycler to recover a small part of the \$3.9 million project cost, the project chief said.

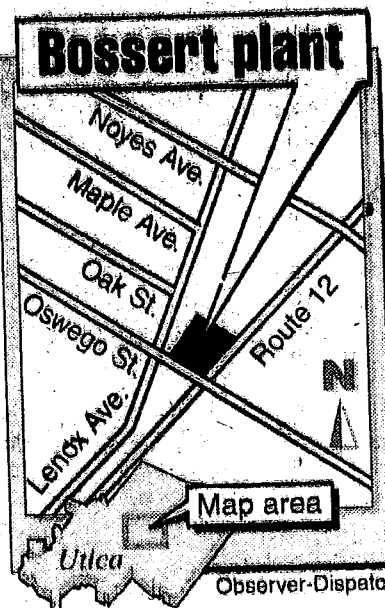
After the PCB contamination is gone and the metal recycled, crews will begin stripping the asbestos off 3,000 feet of pipes in the complex.

Harmon said the asbestos doesn't pose a health threat now because most of it is saturated with water that has leaked through the crumbling roof and cannot get into the air.

When asbestos removal begins early next year, he said, the building will be tightly sealed with thick plastic sheets to contain any airborne particles.

The entire job should be finished by June, said Joseph Rotala, chief of the EPA's removal-action section.

Mayor Edward A. Hanna said



the city spent nearly \$4 million on environmental and legal actions before he negotiated a deal for the state to pay for the cleanup.

The state then passed the job on to the federal government, which will use federal Superfund money on the project.

Magellan Bus Tours

Fully escorted casino trips. Bldgo on bus. Free coffee and snacks.

CHRISTMAS AT RADIO CITY

11/29 Radio City \$99
 12/7 Radio City \$109

DANGER! KEEP OUT! HAZARDOUS AREA!

ALL UNAUTHORIZED ENTRY OR ACCESS IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED. TRESPASSERS WILL BE PROSECUTED. THIS BUILDING AND PROPERTY ARE UNDER CITY OF UTICA POLICE DEPARTMENT SURVEILLANCE. REPORT ANY SIGNS OF TRESPASS, FORCIBLE ENTRY, PUBLIC SAFETY VIOLATIONS OR ANY OTHER UNUSUAL ACTIVITY TO THE CITY OF UTICA POLICE DEPARTMENT TEL 795-3301 AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!

By HEATHER MARTIN, Observer-Dispatch

This sign hangs on the exterior of the old Bossert Plant, the building sits on the corner of the North-South Arterial and Oswego Street.

CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

The Observer-Dispatch strives for fair and accurate coverage. In the event of substantive errors, it is the policy of the newspaper to correct them promptly and prominently.

Readers can call errors to the attention of Managing Editor Bobbi Perritano at 792-5008, News Editor Mike Kilian at 792-5020.

Paid Political Advertising

Dear Citizens of Utica,

I have a deep and abiding faith in the future of our city. We must continue to reach out for greater goals with higher expectations.

Our most urgent goal must be for fiscal responsibility and the needed financial strength to make good things happen. Beyond this, we must strive for creative ideas in a strong movement for progress and growth.

We must understand the many aspects and components in making government work.

